

# Palmerlee Report to Committees – Summer 2005

(updated 6/14/05)

## ***TRB Updates***

Martine Micozzi is moving from NCHRP to take over the policy committees.

Joe Breen, who staffs the aviation committees, will be retiring in June.

Gordy Franke, who staffed the data committee and then in the IT department developed the annual meeting software, is leaving TRB for other pursuits.

## ***TRB Critical Issues Status***

The TRB Executive committee is using materials committees submitted after the annual meeting to determine this iteration of critical issues. The Technical Activities Council will also consider those materials to craft initiatives for the standing committees. A summary of their deliberations will be available to committee just before the Boston joint midyear meeting.

## ***Annual Meeting – 2006***

Spotlight Theme. *Transportation 2025: Getting There from Here*. As part of this theme, it is expected that sessions will be developed that look beyond today's research results to what the transportation could and should look like over the next 20 years. Sessions will also address the updated TRB critical issues, transportation as part of future trends (economic, technology, etc.), accountability and performance, and the Technical Activities Council cross-cutting issues. A sub-theme for the meeting will be the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System, with a focus on what we have learned over the years from research generated for and by the Interstate, and where do we go from here.

Note the annual meeting starts later than usual, on Sunday, **January 22**.

Key Dates for Program Development [Key Program Dates AM06](#)

Session Quota for Committees – 2.2 sessions

All papers must be submitted via TRB's [Paper Submission and Review Site](#). Full papers are due by August 1, 2005. However, authors are encouraged to enter their abstracts into the website now. Doing so gives you immediate access to the more than 6,000 papers that have been published in TRB Transportation Research Record since 1996, a new tool that can be invaluable in providing background and references for your paper. Papers may be submitted on any transportation topic covered by TRB; however, potential authors may want to consult the more than 95 [committee's calls for papers](#) for the TRB 85th Annual Meeting as a means of identifying potential topics for papers..

## ***Data Section Initiatives***

### **Metadata**

A workgroup chaired by Johanna Zmud was charged with recommending a plan of action for the Section. Which type of institutional mechanism, under the Section umbrella, should be given authority for dealing with metadata issues? What should be this entity's mission? Their report to

the Section provides a brief introduction to the definition and value of metadata, identifies challenges in addressing metadata issues, and presents options, as well as recommendations, for the Section focus on metadata. Section Chair Alan Pisarski accepted the report and appointed Frances Harrison to chair a section subcommittee to move the metadata agenda forward. He further requested committee chairs to recommend subcommittee members.

## ***Midyear Meetings – 2006***

### **Joint Midyear Meeting Plans**

Program planning. The program development approach for the joint midyear meeting continues to evolve. The initial program planning meeting will be Tuesday afternoon, July 12 in Boston. A second meeting in Washington during the fall has been discussed (no travel funding available). No Data Committees have indicated their intention to attend the joint meeting in 2006, following the tradition of attending every other year. No data committee chairs have offered to represent the data section at the planning meeting.

The site selection process will be accelerated so future sites will be known earlier. The following are the leading candidates for the next two years:

San Diego in 2006

Chicago in 2007

### **NATMEC**

June 4-7, 2006, Minneapolis (see [www.natmec.org](http://www.natmec.org))

TRB Committees Holding 2006 Midyear Meetings at NATMEC

ABJ20 Statewide Transportation Data and Information Systems

ABJ30 Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems

ABJ40 Travel Survey Methods (one of two meetings)

ABJ90 Freight Data (one of two meetings)

AFD30 Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee

## ***Committees***

### **Committee Annual Reports**

The Data Section pilot tested the Policy and Organization Group annual report process last year.. TRB staff generate basic statistics on committee activities and committee chairs add additional information, such as research problems statements and conferences sponsored. A preliminary report will be generated before the annual meeting. Committee will finalize their report after the meeting.

### **Rotations**

#### **Due 2006**

ABJ90 Freight Transportation Data

#### **Due**

1-Mar-06

#### **Due 2007**

ABC40 Transportation Asset Management Committee

1-Mar-07

ABJ50 Information Systems and Technology

1-Mar-07

AFD30 Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee

1-Mar-07

## **Triennial Strategic Plans (TSP)**

**New Guide to TSPs.** The Policy and Organization Group is finalizing guidelines for TSPs. All the committees within the Section will prepare TSPs in the same year in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and any gaps in the section coverage. Committee should plan on distributing draft TSPs before the annual meeting so committees can discuss and develop consensus on future directions. The committee completing Triennial Self Evaluations last year will not have to do a new one until

### **TSPs Due March, 2006**

ABC40	Transportation Asset Management
ABJ50	Information Systems and Technology
ABJ60	Spatial Data and Information Science
ABJ80	Statistical Methodology and Statistical Computer Software in Transportation Research
ABJ90	Freight Transportation Data
ABD30	Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee

## ***TRB Freight Activities***

### **Peer Exchange on Freight Data for State Departments of Transportation**

July 10, 2005, Boston

The Statewide Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee is conducting a peer exchange to bring together statewide data managers in an interactive format to provide a dialogue to better understand how states use and collect freight data, discuss methods to improve the use of current data and to make suggestions for improving future freight data sets.

### **Freight Industry Roundtable**

June 6-7, 2005, Washington, DC for initial meeting

TRB has established a Freight Industry Roundtable as a forum for the discussion of the context and underlying issues that could have importance for the development of future U.S. freight transportation initiatives. The roundtable will hold a series of invitational workshops to provide an opportunity for public-sector officials to discuss priority national freight transportation needs with industry representatives. Direct participation from the freight industry (including shippers and carriers of all modes), along with experts in high-level systems integration, private-sector logistics, public-sector infrastructure, finance, economics, international trade flows, and organizational development, will help clarify the background issues and identify types of freight transportation system improvements that might be targeted by national freight initiatives.

### **Freight Demand Modeling: A Conference on Improving Forecasting Tools for Public-Sector Decision Making**

Summer-Fall, 2005

TRB is organizing a conference on freight demand modeling designed to engage members of the freight transportation community in examining current modeling practice and identifying areas where improvement may be needed. The conference will also review local data collections that support freight modeling, consider improvements being made to national freight data sources, and identify strategies for improving local data collection efforts to supplement national data

sources for state and local freight demand modeling.

### ***Information of Interest***

[Recent & Upcoming TRB Events](#)

[Recent TRB Publications](#)

[Studies in Process](#)

## Appendices

### ***Key Program Dates – TRB Annual Meeting, 2006***

<b><i>June 15</i></b>	Preliminary workshop information due from chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The required workshop information is:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Workshop Title</li> <li>○ Workshop length (Half Day/Full Day)</li> <li>○ Description (A paragraph description is sufficient)</li> <li>○ Attendance Estimates</li> <li>○ Subject Area</li> <li>○ Fees</li> <li>○ Attendance limits</li> <li>○ Sponsoring and/or Co-Sponsoring committees</li> <li>○ Committee Contact</li> <li>○ TRB Staff Contact</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>June 15</i></b>	Preliminary session list due from chairs	
<b><i>August 1</i></b>	Paper submission deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The web page will close Tuesday August 2 at 6AM</li> </ul>
<b><i>August 9</i></b>	All papers assigned and sent to Committees	
<b><i>August 12</i></b>	Deadline for Committee to decline to review papers	
<b><i>September 13</i></b>	Emeritus Member Nominations and Paper Awards Due	
<b><i>September 15</i></b>	For Palmerlee-staffed committees the conference session details are due on this date.	
<b><i>September 15</i></b>	Complete reviews must be submitted to PRESS (paper review software).	
<b><i>October 1</i></b>	Chairs submit final conference session, paper session, poster session, and workshop details.	Chairs use AMP (session planning software) and only sessions with complete information will be accepted. Full contact information will again be required.
<b><i>January 22</i></b>	TRB Annual Meeting starts	

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## ***NCHRP Research Proposal Dates***

**08-36 program** (quick-response research on planning topics):

Submit proposals to Ron McCready, [rmccready@nas.edu](mailto:rmccready@nas.edu), by July 22, 2005. The panel will meet on August 8-9 to program the projects. Also send Ron any full NCHRP Problem Statements for consideration by the Standing Committee on Planning for the next year's SCOR review.

See [format](#) other submission dates below ([NCHRP Submittal Dates](#))

## ***Recent & Upcoming TRB Events***

May 4, 2005

### **Using Operations Data in the Planning Process Peer Exchange**

Washington, DC

The peer exchange will help define a path to advance the state-of-the-practice for using operations data in the transportation planning process.

July 10-12, 2005

### **TRB 2005 Joint Summer Conference**

Boston, Massachusetts

<http://www.trb.org/Conferences/JointSummer/>

September 28, 2005

### **Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS) Workshop**

Washington, DC

By invitation, contact Tom Palmerlee, [tpalmerlee@nas.edu](mailto:tpalmerlee@nas.edu)

November 1-3, 2005

### **6th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management - Making Asset Management Work in Your Organization\***

Kansas City, Missouri

<http://www.trb.org/conferences/Asset/>

December 8-9, 2005

### **Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation: What is Included and Impacts on the Data Community**

Washington, DC

January 22-26, 2006

### **TRB 85th Annual Meeting**

Washington, D.C.

June 4-7, 2006

### **North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference (NATMEC)**

Minneapolis, MN

<http://www.natmec.org>

Spring-Fall 2006

### **Freight Demand Modeling: A Conference on Improving Analysis and Forecasting Tools for Public-Sector Decision Making**

TBD

A NRC **Freight Roundtable** has been approved and will hold two workshops in 2006.

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## ***Recent TRB Publications***

### **Measuring International Trade on U.S. Highways**

National Research Council Committee on National Statistics report includes the findings of a panel that reviewed a Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) study designed to measure the ton-miles and value-miles of international trade traffic carried by highway for each state. The study also was intended to evaluate the accuracy and reliability of such measures for use in the formula for highway apportionments; evaluate the accuracy and reliability of the use of diesel fuel data as a measure of international trade traffic by state; and identify needed improvements in long-term data collection programs

### **Geographic Information Systems Applications in Transit**

TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Synthesis 55: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications in Transit examines the value of GIS to transit agencies in service and cost savings. The synthesis summarizes the experiences of a variety of transit agencies, with information from small- and medium-sized transit operators, as well as from large transit agencies. It documents current practices, effective applications, and challenges.

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## ***Studies in Process***

### **Transportation Information Management: A Strategy for the Future**

TRB's Committee for Transportation Information Management: A Strategy for the Future will hold its second meeting March 1-2, 2005, in Washington, D.C. The committee has been charged with providing strategic advice to the federal government and the states regarding a sustainable administrative structure and funding mechanism for meeting the information services needs of the transportation sector. The committee will define the core services that need to be provided, identify how they should be provided, and suggest options for funding. The committee's final report is expected to be completed by mid-fall 2005.

### **Integrating Geo-Spatial Technologies into the Right-of-Way Data-Management Process: NCHRP Project 8-55**

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) is conducting a project to identify the data elements that need to be included in a data model for a right-of-way information system that includes a geo-spatial component, and produce examples of return on investment when geo-spatial capabilities are added to such systems.

### **Committee on Planning for Catastrophe: A Blueprint for Improving Geospatial Data, Tools, and Infrastructure**

Geospatial information is central in all aspects of emergency management (e.g., detection, preparedness, prevention, protection, response, and recovery). Sound decision-making during emergencies requires the rapid integration of complete and accurate data that drive user-friendly decision-support tools. This study will assess the status of and needed improvements in core geospatial data and tools, and infrastructure for enhancing decision-making in emergency situations. Pat Hu is serving on this committee under the NRC's Board on Earth Sciences and Resources.

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## ***NCHRP Submittal Dates***

<http://www4.trb.org/trb/crp.nsf>

### **NCHRP Research Problem Statements (main)**

formal solicitation on early July  
due September 15

### **Synthesis topics**

due January 31

### **TCRP Research Problem Statements**

due June 15

### **20-24 Series Suggestions**

due ≈3 weeks before AASHTO Annual and Spring Meetings

### **Legal Studies**

ad hoc submittals

## ***Format for 08-36 Proposals***

The objective of this project is to establish a flexible, ongoing program of quick-response research designed to develop improvements to the analytical methods, decision-support tools, procedures, and techniques employed by practitioners to support statewide and metropolitan transportation planning, programming, and development.

Submit to Ron McCready, [rmccready@nas.edu](mailto:rmccready@nas.edu) in July.

08-36 NCHRP Panel on Research for the AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning

The research statement should be a background summary. This should be followed by the objective of the research. The tasks can be one sentence for each.

- Title
- Research Statement
- Tasks
- Time
- Cost

We strongly encourage submitters to do a literature search, before submitting, to make sure the problem hasn't already been solved or isn't being studied. TRB's Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) system is now freely available as TRIS Online at

<<http://ntl.bts.gov/tris>>.

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